paise as against the postal rate of 25 paise involving subsidy of about 96 per cent. Even after the revision of rate from 25 paise to 50 paise, the subsidy level will remain at about 91 per cent. Considering the high level of subsidy in providing this service, the present revision of rate is reasonable and there is no scope for any change.

International Telephone call racket at Gurgaon

1731. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone call rackets are working at metropolitan and big cities in connivance with a few working at telephone exchanges;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an international call racket to receive calls illegally from United States by-pasing the VSNL channel incurring a heavy revenue loss of India and US was detected in Gurgaon in the third week of April, 2001;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to unearth such rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Some cases of misuse of STD/ISD and some other cases of illegal routing of incoming international calls by-passing the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) Gateways have been detected.

(b) and (c) An illegal setup for passing of international voice calls by-passing the Gateway of VSNL was unearthed on 20.3.2001 in Gurgaon wherein Income voice calls were being received through Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) and associated equipment and the same were being distributed to various subscribers through local telephone lines of Gurgaon Telephone Exchange. The Central Bureau of Investigation, have registered a regular case.

(d) (i) Premises having Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) antenna and bulk telephone connections are kept under special watch.

(ii) Threshold monitoring has been intensified in the telephone exchanges.

(iii) Dedicated CBI Cells have been created in four metros exclusively for detecting and checking telecom related frauds.

(iv) A close coordination between Service provider and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.

PBX Services in Bangalore

1732. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Karnataka Telecom Centre propose to launch PBX services in Bangalore;

(b) if so, which are the cities in the country offering such services;

(c) the number of organisations which have come forward to utilise the above services in Bangalore; and

(d) by when the above services would be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, PBX Services are already available throughout the country, including Bangalore in Karnataka circle. This service is made available on BSNL and MTNL Networks to all the organisations, offices, individulas whoever apply for the same.

(d) Does not arise

Losses to MTNL Due to Faulty Mechanical Device

1733. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Coin pay phones cannot be successful", appearing in the Statesman dated the 1st June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are losing substantial revenue due to the faulty mechanical device of the telephone instruments as it is very simple to get back the coin by tieing at string to the coin; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken to modify the instrument in such a way that once the coin is dropped it could not be pulled out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There have